

Date	Vision Americas Person who c'd contacting	Person contacted	Description of Activity	Form of Contact	Hardcopy/Attachment
10/26/09	Roger F. Noriega	Staffer Kimberly Ellis w/ Rep. Brady	Roger Noriega emailed an invitation to a briefing on behalf of USCR.	Email	Invitation to USCR briefing, and letter of support
10/26/09	Roger F. Noriega	Staffer Lisa Williams w/Rep. Faleomavaega	Roger Noriega emailed an invitation to a briefing on behalf of USCR.	Email	Invitation to USCR briefing, and letter of support
10/26/09	Roger F. Noriega	Staffer Francis Gibbs w/Rep. Rep. Connie Mack	Roger Noriega emailed an invitation to a briefing on behalf of USCR.	Email	Invitation to USCR briefing, and letter of support
10/26/09	Roger F. Noriega	Staffer Melissa Haydel w/Rep. Mike McCaul	Roger Noriega emailed an invitation to a briefing on behalf of USCR.	Email	Invitation to USCR briefing, and letter of support
10/26/09	Roger F. Noriega	Staffer Jim Richardson w/ Rep. Todd Tiahrt	Roger Noriega emailed an invitation to a briefing on behalf of USCR.	Email	Invitation to USCR briefing, and letter of support

2009 NOV 10 PM 3:57

NSD/CES/REGISTRATION
UNIT



U.S. Committee for
Refugees and Immigrants

Protecting Refugees and Upholding Freedom since 1911

Invitation

For Immediate Release:

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Ending the Human Warehousing of Refugees: Actor/Advocate, Diplomat, & International Refugee NGO to Capitol Hill for Rights of Forgotten Refugees

WHAT: "LOST" cast member and international advocate Jeff Fahey, the U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants (USCRI), and former U.S. Ambassador Michael Ussery will host briefing for Members of Congress on the situation of millions of refugees warehoused around the world—from Thailand to Tindouf, Algeria. The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugee spells out the rights of refugees to live normal lives—including the rights to work, practice professions, run businesses, own property, move about freely, and choose their place of residence. But more than 8 million of nearly 14 million refugees in the world are denied these rights in situations lasting 10 years or more. Instead, they are "warehoused"—confined to camps or segregated settlements, or struggling in urban areas without legal rights and forced to subsist on international humanitarian aid, often for generations.

It doesn't have to be this way.

WHEN: 10:00 AM, Tuesday, October 27, 2009

WHERE: The U.S. Capitol, Room H122
Washington, DC 20515

WHO: USCRI President and CEO Lavinia Limón will show how pioneering solidarity work in Thailand has produced a broad coalition of support for community hosting alternatives to forced encampment. She will release an Open Letter to Donors from endorsed by hundreds of Thai civil society and provincial community leaders and ordinary citizens calling on the international community to give them a chance with more rights-based approaches.

"LOST" cast member Jeff Fahey and former U.S. Ambassador Michael Ussery will present findings of their two recent trips to the Western Sahara where they interviewed dozens of Sahrawi refugees who recently fled the camps in nearby Algeria. Merrill Smith will present USCRI's new report "*Stonewalling on Refugee Rights: Algeria and the Sahrawi*" based on a recent trip to the Western Sahara and Algeria, including the refugee camps outside Tindouf. Two refugees who recently made it out of the camps will be available for questions.

Participants will also discuss movement for alternatives, ranging from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) recent multilateral Dialogue on protracted refugee situations, the U.S. State Department's FY2010 pledge of \$400 million to address them, UNHCR's new policy on refugee protection in urban areas, and steps Congress can take.

CONTACT: USCRI, (703) 310-1130, uscri@uscridc.org

About USCRI

For nearly 100 years the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants has acted to address the needs and rights of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide by advancing fair and humane public policy, facilitating and providing direct professional services, and promoting the full participation of migrants in community life.

2009 NOV 10 PM
NSD/SEC/REGISTRATION UNIT

Sent: Friday, October 23, 2009 9:51 AM
To: E-DEARCOLL_ISSUES_G-7_0000@ls2.house.gov
Subject: HomelandSecurity, Immigration, Judiciary: Dear Colleague: Ending the Human Warehousing of Refugees

Ending the Human Warehousing of Refugees

From: The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Sent By: david.shahoulian@mail.house.gov
Date: 10/23/2009

Briefing: Ending the Human Warehousing of Refugees

Dear Colleagues,

As Co-Chairs of the Bipartisan Congressional Refugee Caucus, we are writing to alert Members to an invitation that will arrive shortly to attend a briefing by “LOST” cast member and international advocate Jeff Fahey, the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), and former U.S. Ambassador Michael Ussery on “Ending the Human Warehousing of Refugees.” The briefing, which will include other panelists listed below, will take place Tuesday, October 27 at 10 a.m. in room H-122 of the Capitol. We encourage you to attend.

The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees provides refugees certain protections, including the right to work and the right of freedom of movement. The briefing will discuss how these rights are denied to millions of refugees, many of whom are subject to “warehousing,” including confinement in camps or segregated settlements, in situations lasting 10 years or more.

The Panel will specifically discuss the following issues:

NSD/CES/REGISTRATION
UNIT
2009 NOV 10 PM 3:57

- USCRI President Lavinia Limón will discuss how pioneering solidarity work in Thailand has produced broad support for community hosting alternatives. She will also present an Open Letter to Donors, endorsed by hundreds of civil society and provincial community leaders, calling on the international community to support them in more rights-based approaches.
- Mr. Fahey and Ambassador Ussery will present the findings of their two recent trips to the Western Sahara where they interviewed dozens of Sahrawi refugees who recently fled the camps in nearby Algeria.
- Merrill Smith will present USCRI's new report, "Stonewalling on Refugee Rights: Algeria and the Sahrawi," based upon his recent trip to the Western Sahara and Algeria.

Participants will also discuss the movement for alternatives, ranging from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR's) recent multilateral Dialogue on protracted refugee situations, the State Department's pledge of \$400 million to address these situations in FY 2010, UNHCR's new policy on protection in urban areas, and steps Congress can take to address the international problem of warehousing refugees.

For more information, please contact David Shahoulian at
david.shahoulian@mail.house.gov.

/Zoe Lofgren/

/Lincoln Diaz-Balart/